

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-01
PA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 ITC-01 /095 W
-----104315 251300Z /53

R 250551Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0682
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH GOJ ON FOOTWEAR, LEATHER
AND TV'S

1. SUMMARY: ASST. STR LANDE MET WITH MITI OFFICIALS ON
AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 21 TO DISCUSS FOOTWEAR, LEATHER AND
COLOR TV'S. THE JAPANESE SAID THAT WHILE THEIR SHARE OF
U.S. FOOTWEAR IMPORTS IS STILL QUITE SMALL, THEY DID
NOTE OUR CONCERN OVER RECENT INCREASES. MITI OFFICIALS
ALSO DENIED THAT TRANSHIPMENTS OF FOOTWEAR
ASSEMBLED FROM IMPORTED COMPONENTS IS TAKING PLACE AND
PROMISED TO PROVIDE PERIODIC STATISTICS ON FOOTWEAR MANU-
FACTURE AND EXPORT. ON LEATHER, LANDE WAS TOLD THAT A
"RESPONSIBLE" GOJ OFFICIAL WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON IN
SEPTEMBER FOR FURTHER TALKS. FOCUS OF TALKS ON TV'S
WAS GOJ CONCERN THAT WE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF
MEASURES AGAINST EXPORTS FROM ALL THIRD COUNTRY SUPPLIERS
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(E.G. KOREA AND MEXICO) AS WELL AS TAIWAN. LANDE REPLIED
THAT WE ARE STILL WATCHING THE SITUATION IN KOREA AND
MEXICO AND DO NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR SPECIFIC EXPORT
RESTRAINT MEASURES UNLESS THERE IS A CLEAR REASON FOR
DOING SO. END SUMMARY.

2. FOOTWEAR: LANDE MET WITH GROUP OF MITI OFFICIALS HEADED

BY HANOBE. AFTER SUMMARIZING FOOTWEAR DISCUSSIONS WITH HONG KONG, LANDE NOTED U.S. CONCERN WITH INCREASING VOLUME OF FOOTWEAR EXPORTS FROM THE PHILIPPINES, THAILAND, AND JAPAN. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WHILE THE VOLUME OF EXPORTS FROM JAPAN IS NOT YET A REAL PROBLEM FOR THE U.S., FURTHER SIGNIFICANT INCREASES COULD COMPROMISE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR OMA'S WITH TAIWAN AND THE ROK.

3. IN REPLY, THE JAPANESE SAID THAT SINCE THEIR SHARE OF U.S. FOOTWEAR IMPORTS IS STILL VERY SMALL, THERE SHOULD BE NO NEED FOR AN OMA; HOWEVER, THEY DID NOTE OUR CONCERN. MASUDA POINTED OUT THAT BECAUSE OF THE YEN REVALUATION THE JAPANESE DID NOT EXPECT SHARP INCREASES IN THEIR PRESENT VOLUME OF EXPORTS. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM LANDE, GOJ OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS NO TRANSHIPMENT OF FOOTWEAR ASSEMBLED FROM IMPORTED COMPONENTS (TO THE BEST OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE). MITI REGULATIONS DO NOT ALLOW THE USE OF A "MADE IN JAPAN" LABEL ON SUCH SHOES AND JAPANESE DUTIES ON FOOTWEAR COMPONENTS RANGE FROM 25-27 PERCENT. THE JAPANESE PROMISED TO PROVIDE US WITH PERIODIC STATISTICS OF FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURE AND EXPORT.

4. LEATHER: DURING BRIEF CALL ON TAKAHASHI, LANDE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REAL PROGRESS COULD BE MADE ON LEATHER ISSUE WITHOUT NECESSITY OF FOLLOWING THROUGH ON GATT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMPLAINT. TAKAHASHI PREDICTABLY EXPRESSED REGRET OVER OUR GOING "PUBLIC" ON LEATHER (I.E. TO THE GATT) AND SAID THAT THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE USG-GOJ CONSULTATION. HOWEVER, TAKAHASHI SAID THAT A "RESPONSIBLE" GOJ OFFICIAL WOULD GO TO WASHINGTON IN SEPTEMBER FOR FURTHER TALKS. WHILE IT APPARENTLY HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED EXACTLY WHO WILL GO, TAKAHASHI EMPHASIZED THAT IT WILL BE SOMEONE "RESPONSIBLE" WHO WILL ACTUALLY HAVE SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT. LANDE REPLIED THAT OF COURSE WE WILL WELCOME SUCH CONSULTATIONS, BUT THAT THE TALKS MUST HAVE SUBSTANCE IF WE ARE TO RECONSIDER OUR GATT ACTION.

5. COLOR TV'S: LANDE ALSO MET WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR FUKUDA OF MITI MACHINERY AND INFO INDUSTRIES' TRADE DIVISION TO REVIEW SITUATION ON TV EXPORTS. AFTER TALKING ABOUT TAIWANESE EXPORTS, FUKUDA EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER EXPORTS FROM THE ROK AND MEXICO (PARTICULARLY THE LATTER) AND ASKED WHAT PLANS THE U.S. HAS TO DEAL WITH THOSE COUNTRIES. LANDE REPLIED THAT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION TO TAKE EXPORT-RESTRICTIVE MEASURES AGAINST A GIVEN COUNTRY UNLESS THERE IS A CLEAR NEED TO DO SO, AND THAT WE ARE STILL WATCHING THE SITUATION IN MEXICO AND THE ROK. LANDE THEN

ASKED WHETHER THE GOJ WANTED US TO TAKE SPECIFIC MEASURES
AGAINST MEXICO AND KOREA AS WELL AS TAIWAN, TO WHICH FUKUDA
SIAD THAT JAPAN IS CONCERNED WITH THE TV EXPORT SITUATION
AS A WHOLE AND THAT, IN PRINCIPLE, GOJ OFFICIALS EXPECT
THE U.S. TO CONSIDER RESTRAINT MEASURES TOWARD ALL
EXPORTERS IN PROPORTION TO THE VOLUME OF THEIR EXPORTS
(THOUGH FUKUDA DID ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IN PRACTICE THE
GOJ "UNDERSTANDS" OUR INTENT TO TAKE ON MORE SERIOUS
CASES--I.E. TAIWAN--BEFORE CONSIDERING OTHER COUNTRIES).
LANDE IN TURN REPEATED HIS ASSERTION THAT SPECIFIC
MEASURES IN REGARD TO THIRD-COUNTRY TV EXPORTS HAVE NOT
BEEN FIRMED UP AND THAT WE ARE TRYING TO BE AS FLEXIBLE
AS POSSIBLE IN DEALING WITH THIS PROBLEM. MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 25 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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